

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 9.

1. (Previously presented) Multiple level type electric connector characterized by being an electric connector provided with a plurality of levels of rows of electric contacts aligned on a same surface, stacked in a direction perpendicular to the aforementioned surfaces,

each electric contact row containing electric contacts for signals and electric contacts for grounding,

each electric contact for signals contained in each electric contact row having an open end located on a first plane that differs for each level, and a leg portion extending downwards from said first plane and leading to a same second plane,

each electric contact for grounding contained in each electric contact row having an open end located on a first plane, and a leg portion extending downwards from said first plane and leading to a same second plane connected to a grounding line,

and being provided with a shield portion connected to the aforementioned electric contacts for grounding of each level and a grounding line, and at least partially covering the leg portions of the aforementioned electric contacts.

2. (Previously presented) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1, characterized in that the aforementioned electric contact row with a plurality of levels has two levels.

3. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the aforementioned shield portion does not cover the leg portions of the electric contacts for signals of the lowest level.

4. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in any one of Claims 1 through 3, characterized in that the aforementioned shield portion is located above the leg portions of the electric contacts for signals of the lowest level.

5. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 4~~, characterized in that the shape and material of the aforementioned shield portion are determined so that the impedance of each of the electric contacts for signals are substantially the same.

6. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 5~~, characterized in that the electric contact rows in each of the aforementioned levels are such that an electric contact for grounding is provided for each N (N being an integer greater than or equal to 1) successive electric contacts for signals.

7. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 6~~, provided with a housing capable of housing the aforementioned electric contact row.

8. (Currently Amended) A multiple level type electric connector recited in ~~any one of Claims 1 through 7~~, that is mountable on an electronic circuit board.

9. Cancelled